

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) Sealable sterilizing packaging material for medical devices that have to be sterilized, having a mean burst strength not less than 200 kPa measured according to the ISO 2758 standard, a mean tear strength not less than 300 mN measured according to the European Standard EN 21974, a mean impact strength not less than 0.4 J measured according to the standard ASTM D 3420 and a bacterial filtering efficiency BFE not less than 85%, having a grammage ranging between 40 and 250 g/m²[[,]] ~~preferably between 90 and 250~~ [[g/m²,]] measured according to the ISO 536 standard and comprising at least two sterilizing packaging sheets (F1) and (F2), at least one of the sheets being sealable directly or after being coated with a sealing product, the said sheets being irreversibly bonded together via one of their sides.

Claim 2 (Original) Material according to Claim 1, characterized in that the two sheets of sterilizing packaging (F1) and (F2) are bonded together by bonding points such that the said bonding points are in a discrete form at the bonding interface of the sheets.

Claim 3 (Previously presented) Material according to claim 1, characterized in that the discrete bonding points are uniformly distributed at the interface of the sheets.

Claim 4 (Previously presented) Material according to claim 1, characterized in that the sheets (F1) and (F2) are bonded together by an adhesive.

Claim 5 (Previously presented) Material according to claim 4, characterized in that the adhesive is chosen from pressure-sensitive adhesives.

Claim 6 (Previously presented) Material according to claim 4, characterized in that the adhesive is chosen from hot-melt adhesives, also called hot-melts.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) Material according to claim 4, characterized in that the adhesive is a self-sealing adhesive ~~adhesive, particularly natural rubber~~.

Claim 8 (Previously presented) Material according to claim 4, characterized in that the adhesive is a porous adhesive.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) Material according to claim 4, characterized in that the amount of adhesive deposited ranges between 1 and 20 g/m²[[.]] ~~preferably between 5 and 10 g/m².~~

Claim 10 (Previously presented) Material according to claim 4, characterized in that the adhesive is deposited by halftone gravure printing.

Claim 11 (Previously presented) Material according to claim 1, characterized in that one of the sheets (F1) is sealable directly or after it has been coated with a sealing product and the other sheet (F2) has a bacterial filtering efficiency BFE not less than that of the sheet (F1) and in that this bacterial filtering efficiency BFE ranges between 80 and 100%.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) Material according to claim 1, characterized in that the sheet (F1) is a paper sheet and in that it comprises:

- between 5 and 100 parts by weight of cellulose fibres, the cellulose fibers optionally being rayon fibres resulting from sodium hydroxide treatment of viscose or regenerated cellulose fibres in solvent medium ~~possibly being modified~~;
- between 0 and 95 parts by weight of synthetic fibres, the sum of the cellulose fibre parts and the synthetic fibre parts making 100;
- between 0 and 5% of a wet-strength agent by dry weight of the total composition of

the sheet;

- between 0 and 40% of a cohesion agent by dry weight of the total composition of the sheet.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) Material according to claim 1, characterized in that the sheet (F2) is a paper sheet and in that it comprises:

- between 90 and 100 parts by weight of cellulose fibres, the cellulose fibers optionally being rayon fibres resulting from sodium hydroxide treatment of viscose or regenerated cellulose fibres in solvent medium ~~possibly being modified~~;

- between 0 and 10 parts by weight of synthetic fibres, the sum of the cellulose fibre parts and synthetic fibre parts making 100;

- between 0 and 5% of a wet-strength agent by dry weight of the total composition of the sheet;

- between 0 and 40% of a cohesion agent by dry weight of the total composition of the sheet.

Claim 14 (Previously presented) Material according to claim 12, characterized in that the synthetic fibres are chosen from fibres homopolymers or copolymers of polyolefins, of polyester, of polyamide.

Claim 15 (Previously presented) Material according to claim 12, characterized in that the synthetic fibres have a mean length ranging between 1 and 30 mm and a mean linear density ranging between 0.5 and 5 dtex.

Claim 16 (Previously presented) Material according to claim 12, characterized in that the cohesion agent is chosen from starches, polyvinyl alcohols, acrylic or acrylate polymers.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) Material according to claim 12, characterized in that the cohesion agent is an also the adhesive selected from the group consisting of pressure sensitive adhesives, hot-melt adhesives, self-sealing adhesive, natural rubber adhesive, and porous adhesive ~~for bonding between the sheets (F1) and (F2) according to Claims 4 to 8.~~

Claim 18 (Currently Amended) Material according to claim 1, characterized in that it said material is covered on one of its sides with a sealing adhesive uniformly distributed either continuously over its entire surface or in patterns of grids or zones.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended) Sealable sterilizing package for medical devices that have to be sterilized, characterized in that it said package comprises the said sterilizing material according to claim 1 configured as a package.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended) Package according to ~~claim 19~~ claim 11, characterized in that the sheet (F2) having the greater bacterial filtering efficiency BFE is located on the outside of the package.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended) Package according to claim 19, characterized in that it said package consists of the said sterilizing material and a film of gas-impermeable thermoplastic material which is sealed against the said material over at least part of its perimeter.

Claim 22 (Previously presented) Package according to claim 19, characterized in that it consists of the said sterilizing material sealed against itself or a sheet of paper coated with a sealing product such as a layer of extruded polyethylene or of poly (vinyl acetate).

U.S. Pat. Appl. 09/555,525

Claim 23 (Previously presented) Package according to claim 19, characterized in that it consists of a rigid container and of a cover formed by the said sterilizing material.

Claim 24 (New) The packaging material of claim 1 which has a grammage between 90 and 250 g/m².

Claim 25 (New) The packaging material of claim 7 wherein said self-sealing adhesive is natural rubber adhesive.

Claim 26 (New) The packaging material of claim 9 wherein the amount of adhesive deposited ranges between 5 and 10 g/m².